

# El Paso County Eviction Diversion Mediation Program FAQ

## What is the Eviction Diversion Mediation Program?

Mediation uses trained, neutral third parties to mediate agreements between tenants and landlords to explore alternatives to court. The mediator helps the parties communicate about the issue and explore the options and solutions. **Currently, mediation through this program is limited to conflicts between tenants and landlords involving non-payment of rent, alleged lease violations, and security deposits.** To address issues that are outside of this program's designated scope (such as probate, family law, or commercial leases), the parties should contact the Office of Dispute Resolution (at [coloradoodr.org](http://coloradoodr.org)) to find a contract ODR mediator who handles those issues and schedule directly with the mediator.

## What is mediation?

The disputing parties meet with the mediator in an informal setting to present their sides of the story, and guided by the mediator, develop their own resolution. The basic premise of mediation is that the parties involved in a dispute are best able to resolve it themselves, rather than relying on a judge or magistrate, to impose a decision upon them. A skilled neutral will not take sides or make decisions for you. Rather, the neutral will work constructively to help you resolve the legal issue you are facing, even if you have not been able to resolve the issue in the past.

## Why mediate?

**It's free!** Mediation through the Eviction Diversion Mediation Clinic is free to self-represented landlord and tenants.

**Mediation is less stressful.** A mediation session is informal, as compared to the formality and stress of appearing in court. You have control over the outcome and may experience less stress compared to litigation. Plus, you have the ability to move on with your life and put the matter behind you.

**Mediation can resolve a dispute much more quickly.** A mediation session can be scheduled much more quickly than a court hearing, as a mediator or mediation organization is much more accessible than the single judge or magistrate to whom your case has been assigned. Plus, mediation can be done via video conference or telephone.

**Mediation can produce a creative solution which is more satisfying and enduring.** The parties can address their immediate and long term needs and interests, and they have greater ownership of an agreement that they have crafted themselves.

**Mediation is confidential.** Unlike court procedures, mediation communications are confidential. A mediation agreement signed by all parties is binding, however, and if filed with the court, may become an enforceable court order.

## About Our Mediators

Our mediators have received professional mediation training and know the basics of tenant-landlord law as it relates to the eviction process. They also have passed Judicial Department background checks and are subject to a complaint process.

## Interested and Qualified for the Program? Sign-Up Here:

<https://forms.gle/4L7KtRHJ6Cw8UsaX8>

